

Having thus described the invention, what is claimed is:

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the stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the lengths of said elongate pieces of lumber at at least one of the limited number of pre-determined stud spacings,

each of the plurality of stud locator markings comprising marking material affixed directly to the respective said elongate piece of lumber.

2. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings on units of said framing lumber product being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

3. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings on units of said framing lumber product being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

4. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings on units of said framing lumber product being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

5. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings on a respective said framing lumber product, and between respective ones of said framing lumber products, being consistently no more than .13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

6. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator markings arrayed along the lengths of respective units of said framing lumber product.

7. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective units of said framing lumber product being substantially devoid of location marking indicators away from said stud locator markings.

8. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 4, respective units of said framing lumber product being substantially devoid of location marking indicators except for said stud locator markings.

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9. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, said stud locator markings extending substantially across the full widths of units of said framing lumber product, said units of said framing lumber product being devoid of other marking indicators extending more than half way across the widths of the framing lumber products, whereby the stud locator markings can be readily visually distinguished from any such other markings by appearance differences which are not color differences.

10. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective said stud locator markings having respective leading edge lines, trailing edge lines, and crossing lines between the leading and trailing edge lines.

11. A bundle of framing lumber product as in Claim 1, respective said stud locator markings having respective leading edge lines, trailing edge lines, and first and second crossing lines extending from respective leading edge lines to respective trailing edge lines.

12. A framing lumber product operative to assist in layout and assembly of a wall wherein such wall comprises a bottom plate and a top plate, and a plurality of dimension studs extending between the bottom plate and the top plate at one or more of a limited number of pre-determined stud spacings along the bottom plate and the top plate, said framing lumber product comprising:

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- (a) an elongate piece of lumber for use in one of the bottom plate and the top plate, said elongate piece of lumber having first and second ends and a length therebetween, a front surface and a back surface, and opposing sides extending between the front and back surfaces along the length thereof; and
 - (b) a plurality of stud locator markings spaced along the length of said elongate piece of lumber, each said stud locator marking defining a position for placement, on said elongate piece of lumber, of an end of a stud dimension lumber piece having opposing front and back surfaces and

a thickness dimension therebetween, against said elongate piece of lumber, said marking indicators on said elongate piece of lumber indicating the positions where the front and back surfaces of respective stud lumber pieces are to be placed against said elongate piece of lumber;

the plurality of stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said elongate piece of lumber at at least one of the limited number of pre-determined stud spacings,

each of the plurality of stud locator markings comprising marking material affixed directly to said elongate piece of lumber such that a process of placing a stud against the framing lumber product does not routinely displace the respective stud locator marking.

13. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

14. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

15. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

16. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

17. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator markings arrayed along the length of said framing lumber product.

18. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, substantially devoid of location marking indicators except for said stud locator markings.

19. A framing lumber product as in Claim 18, substantially devoid of location marking indicators except for said stud locator markings.

20. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, said stud locator markings extending substantially across the full width of said framing lumber product, said framing lumber product being devoid of other marking indicators extending more than half way across the width of the framing lumber product whereby the stud locator markings can be readily visually distinguished from any such other marking indicators by appearance differences which are, not color differences.

21. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines between the leading edge line and the trailing edge line.

22. A framing lumber product as in Claim 12, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and first and second crossing lines extending from the leading edge line to the trailing edge line.

(23) A framing lumber product operative to assist in layout and assembly of a wall wherein such wall comprises a bottom plate and a top plate, and a plurality of studs extending between the bottom plate and the top plate at one or more of a limited number of pre-determined cooperating stud spacings along the bottom plate and the top plate, said framing lumber product comprising:

- (a) an elongate piece of lumber for use in one of the bottom plate and the top plate, said elongate piece of lumber having first and second ends and a length therebetween, a front surface and a back surface, and opposing

sides extending between the front and back surfaces along the length thereof; and

- (b) a plurality of stud locator markings spaced along the length of said elongate piece of lumber, each said stud locator marking defining a position for placement, on said elongate piece of lumber, of an end of a stud dimension lumber piece having opposing front and back surfaces and a thickness dimension therebetween, against said elongate piece of lumber;

the plurality of stud locator markings being spaced from each other along the length of said elongate piece of lumber at at least one of the limited number of pre-determined stud spacings,

each of the plurality of stud locator markings comprising marking material affixed directly to said elongate piece of lumber such that a process of joining a stud to the framing lumber product does not routinely displace the respective stud locator marking,

said elongate piece of lumber being generally devoid of marking indicators away from the stud locator markings.

24. A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

25. A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

26. A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, said stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

27. A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, variations in spacing between said stud locator markings being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

28. A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator markings arrayed along the length of said framing lumber product.

29. A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines between the leading edge line and the trailing edge line.

30. A framing lumber product as in Claim 23, a respective said stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and first and second crossing lines extending from the leading edge line to the trailing edge line.

31. A method of fabricating a dimension lumber product, the method comprising:

- (a) dimensionally fabricating a stick of lumber as to length, width, and thickness dimensions at a manufacturing facility;
- (b) after dimensionally fabricating the stick of lumber and before delivering the stick to a customer, defining a plurality of stud locator markings on the stick, including arraying the stud locator markings on the stick at intervals of one or more of a limited number of predetermined stud spacings, the spacings of the stud locator markings thus corresponding to spacings where front and back surfaces of stud dimension lumber pieces may be placed against the respective stick of dimension lumber in layout and assembly of a wall.

32. A method as in Claim 31, including defining and emplacing the stud locator markings on the stick, spacing between the stud locator markings consistently varying by no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

33. A method as in Claim 31, including defining and emplacing the stud locator markings on the stick of lumber prior to shipping the stick from the manufacturing facility.

34. A method as in Claim 31, including defining and emplacing the stud locator markings on the stick at the retail distribution facility.

35. A method as in Claim 31, including printing the stud locator markings on the stick of lumber.

36. A method as in Claim 31, including chemically etching the stud locator markings on the stick of lumber.

37. A method as in Claim 31, including making the stud locator markings by oxidizing stick material at a respective surface of the stick.

38. A method as in Claim 31, including making the stud locator markings by burning respective markings into the surface of the stick with laser-generated energy.

39. A method as in Claim 31, including cutting shallow lines in a respective surface of the stick of lumber.

40. A method of distributing lumber having length, width and thickness, the method comprising:

- (a) shipping the lumber from a fabrication facility via a distribution system which delivers the lumber to a sales distribution facility;
- (b) receiving and temporarily storing the lumber at the sales distribution facility, pending sale of units of the lumber;
- (c) delivering units of the lumber to customers; and
- (d) after shipping the lumber from the fabrication facility and before delivering the units of lumber to customers, defining on a respective unit of the lumber a plurality of stud locator markings, including arraying the stud locator markings on the unit of lumber at one or more of a limited number of predetermined stud spacings, the spacings of the stud locator markings thus corresponding to spacings where front and back surfaces of stud dimension lumber pieces may be placed against the respective unit of lumber in layout and assembly of a wall.

41. A method as in Claim 40, including defining the stud locator markings consistently with no more than 0.13 inch variation leading edge to leading edge.

42. A method as in Claim 40, including stocking the lumber in the sales distribution facility without stud locator markings thereon, selling as a seller, from the unmarked stock respective units for use as marked units and respective units for use as unmarked units, and after selling units to a purchaser, to be used as marked units, marking the respective units at desired stud spacings with stud locator markings before delivering such units to the purchaser, such that the seller provides to purchasers both unmarked and marked units of lumber from a single common stock of units of lumber.

43. A method as in Claim 40, including shipping the lumber from the fabrication facility to a second manufacturing facility and defining the stud locator markings on the unit of the lumber at the second manufacturing facility before delivering the dimension lumber to the sales distribution facility.

44. A method as in Claim 40, including defining the stud locator markings on the unit of lumber while the unit of lumber is located at the sales distribution facility.

45. A method as in Claim 40, including printing the stud locator markings on the unit of lumber.

46. A method as in Claim 40, including chemically etching the stud locator markings on the unit of lumber.

47. A method as in Claim 40, including making the stud locator markings by oxidizing lumber material at a respective surface of the lumber.

48. A method as in Claim 40, including making the stud locator markings by burning respective markings into a respective surface of the lumber with laser-generated energy.

49. A method as in Claim 40, including cutting shallow lines in a respective surface of the lumber.

50. In the process of building construction, a method of fabricating a wall, comprising:

- (a) acquiring first and second units of elongate lumber bearing thereon pre-affixed stud locator markings arrayed along lengths thereof at one of a limited number of predetermined stud spacings;
- (b) laying out the first and second units of elongate lumber parallel to and spaced from each other, the first and second units each defining a plurality of stud locator markings thereon, arrayed along the length of the respective unit of lumber, at one or more of a limited number of

predetermined stud spacings, the spacings of the stud locator markings corresponding to spacings where front and back surfaces of stud dimension lumber pieces may be placed against the respective unit of lumber in layout and assembly of the wall;

- (c) aligning the stud locator markings on the first unit of elongate lumber with the stud locator markings on the second unit of elongate lumber, such that a stud extending between respective cooperating stud locator markings on the respective first and second units of elongate lumber is placed against both the first unit and the second unit at respective first and second generally perpendicular angles;
- (d) laying out studs between facing ones of the stud locator markings on the respective first and second units of product thus to define the first unit of product as a bottom plate and the second unit of product as a top plate of the wall to be fabricated, and a plurality of stud members extending between the bottom plate and the top plate; and
- (e) assembling and securing the studs to the top plate and the bottom plate, the studs thereby defining generally perpendicular angles with the top plate and the bottom plate, thereby to fabricate a wall structural framework combining the studs, the bottom plate, and the top plate, without making stud locator markings on the bottom plate and top plate at the construction site.

51. A method as in Claim 50, the stud locator markings being spaced at about 8 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

52. A method as in Claim 50, the stud locator markings being spaced at about 16 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

53. A method as in Claim 50, the stud locator markings being spaced at about 24 inches leading edge-to-leading edge.

54. A method as in Claim 50, variations in spacing between the stud locator markings on the bottom plate and the top plate being consistently no more than 0.13 inch leading edge to leading edge.

55. A method as in Claim 50, including sets of 2 side-by-side stud locator markings arrayed along the length of the units of elongate dimension lumber.

56. A method as in Claim 50, the units of elongate lumber being substantially devoid of location marking indicators away from said stud locator markings.

57. A method as in Claim 50, including acquiring first and second such units of lumber as 2x4's and assembling thereto 2x4 studs.

58. A method as in Claim 50, including acquiring first and second such units of lumber as 2x6's and assembling thereto 2x6 studs.

59. A method as in Claim 50, including acquiring first and second such units of lumber as 2x8's and assembling thereto 2x8 studs.

60. A method as in Claim 50, including acquiring first and second such units of lumber bearing stud locator markings at 8 inch spacings.

61. A method as in Claim 50, including acquiring first and second such units of lumber bearing stud locator markings at 16 inch spacings.

62. A method as in Claim 50, including acquiring first and second such units of lumber bearing stud locator markings at 24 inch spacings.

63. A method as in Claim 50, a respective stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and crossing lines between the leading edge line and the trailing edge line.

64. A method as in Claim 50, a respective stud locator marking having a respective leading edge line, a trailing edge line, and first and second crossing lines extending from the leading edge line to the trailing edge line.

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